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Rachel Freeny

Feb 23, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

Share your own thoughts with the SC Public Service Commission:

My husband/caregiver/bestie is 69 years old, and I am 58 and severely disabled. Our income is a combined total of two Social Security checks that do not allow us the luxury of owning a television set or stereo system, and we take turns going without some of our medications each month so that the one benefits from taking all his prescriptions for a month. I try to eat as little as possible on the days he serves meat, because he wraps my leftovers for his sandwich the next day. I have only been able to leave our home once per month because it is a third floor apartment with a steep staircase, and I lose consciousness and fall a lot. We can't afford to move. My husband is strong, but he cannot carry me.

The woman who lives below us is older than we are and still works. So my husband listens for her to leave her garbage outside her door to take when she leaves her apt in the a.m. He grabs the bag and tosses it in his truck to take to the dumpster for her because she works too hard. Our neighbor cannot afford A/C in the summer. When her apartment reaches 85 to 90 degrees, our electric bill soars to keep our temperature at 80 degrees. My thermostat on my body died a long time ago when I died and was resuscitated, but my temperature fluctuates wildly and I can't breathe when it is hot. Please do not send me brochures about extra help. We don't qualify because we are too wealthy. No more taxes!

Sincerely,  
Rachel Freeny

PSC SC  
MAIL / DMS

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